



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the **PATENT APPLICATION** of:

Wieth et al.

Application No.: 10/019,142

Confirmation No.: 9820

Filed: April 15, 2002

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DETECTING
AND REWARDING THE RETURNING OF
SHOPPING CARTS

Group: 2632

Examiner: Daniel Previl

Our File: SPT-PT002
(BR19355)

Date: June 9, 2004

REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply is responsive to the Office Action dated February 10, 2004 (Paper No. 13). A one-month Petition for an Extension of Time through June 10, 2004 is submitted herewith. The Office Action was discussed with the Examiner during a telephone interview on May 18, 2004. During the interview, it was agreed that Applicants would clearly identify the optical recognition as relating specifically to the customers themselves and not an identification card. The Examiner also noted that the prior art failed to show the use of the Internet to check customer credits in a rewards account.

Please amend the application as noted in detail below.

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